

SOUTHEAST ALASKA PURSE SEINE FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN, 1995



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Alaska Department of Fish and Game
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INTRODUCTION

This plan describes how the Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishery will be managed during the 1995 season including expected run sizes, harvest strategies, and related management issues. The plan is based on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) 1995 preseason pink salmon forecast and historical escapement and fishery performance data. The ADF&G area management biologists listed at the end of this document are available to provide further details regarding the implementation of the plan in their respective areas.

Regulations allow purse seine fishing in Districts 1 (Sections 1-C, 1-D, 1-E, and 1-F only), 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (Sections 6-C and 6-D only), 7, 9, 10, 11 (Sections 11-A and 11-D only), 12, 13, and 14 (Sections 14-A, 14-B and 14-C). Purse seining is also allowed in terminal hatchery fishing areas at Nakat Inlet, Carroll Inlet, Neets Bay, Kendrick Bay, Eastern Passage, Deep Inlet, Silver Bay, and Hidden Falls. Although the areas specified above are generally open to seine fishing, specific open areas and fishing periods will be established by emergency order.

On average, the purse seine fishery harvests 70% to 90% of the salmon caught in all Southeast Alaska commercial fisheries. Because pink salmon is the primary species targeted by the seine fleet, management actions are based on the abundance of pink salmon stocks. Other species are generally harvested incidental to pink salmon. On average, sockeye and coho salmon account for approximately 2%, chum salmon 7%, and chinook salmon less than 1% of the total purse seine salmon harvest.

Tagging studies of adult pink salmon have demonstrated that the stocks in Southeast Alaska exhibit a distinct separation between the northern and southern portions of the region. For purposes of catch tabulation and management, Districts 1-8 are grouped as "southern Southeast" and Districts 9-14 as "northern Southeast".

Inseason assessments of pink salmon run strength are determined primarily from spawning escapement information obtained from aerial surveys of terminal areas and streams and from fishery performance data (catch and catch per unit effort, or CPUE). Department staff and researchers at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Juneau Center for Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, use fishery performance data and associated information to make inseason forecasts of pink salmon returns to northern and southern Southeast Alaska. The department also charts purse seine vessels to conduct test fishing assessments of run strength in selected index areas and monitors sex ratios in the commercial harvest to evaluate run timing.

1995 Pink Salmon Forecast

The department forecasts a weak return of pink salmon to Southeast Alaska in 1995. The department will attempt to achieve an escapement index of 6,000,000 to 9,000,000 in southern Southeast and at least 4,800,000 in northern Southeast Alaska. Although a weak return is anticipated, a total of between

15,000,000 and 25,000,000 pink salmon in excess of escapement needs are expected to be available for harvest. A regionwide harvest in this range would be well below the last 10-year average of 42,000,000, but above the low harvests in 1987 and 1988 of 9,000,000 and 11,000,000 pink salmon, respectively. The harvest forecast includes approximately 1,000,000 million hatchery origin pink salmon.

The 1995 pink salmon harvest forecast was not based on the regression analysis model that was used successfully the last four years. That model would have predicted a strong return. However, the model has two extreme outliers (1987 and 1988), and there is reason to believe that the 1995 return may also be an outlier due to drought conditions during the summer of 1993. Precipitation data indicates that the 1993 drought was among the three most severe since record keeping was initiated in 1950. A drought of similar duration and magnitude occurred in 1965 resulting in a total, region-wide harvest in 1967 of only 3,000,000 pink salmon. A mitigating factor however, is that the escapement index in 1993 was much higher than the index in 1965. A second factor responsible for the decision against using the previous forecast model, was the lack of large numbers of fry observed during an early marine program conducted in southern Southeast in the spring of 1994. A more detailed explanation of the 1995 pink salmon forecast can be obtained from the statewide harvest prediction publication (RIR 5J95-01).

The strength of the 1995 return will be monitored weekly through two inseason prediction programs. Southern Southeast's prediction program is based on weekly seine catch, CPUE, and pink salmon sex composition data. This program has been reasonably successful in providing a reliable harvest prediction by Statistical Week 30 (July 23 - July 29). Northern Southeast's program utilizes the weekly troll CPUE from Icy Strait. Both programs will be continued in 1995, and harvest strategies may be modified if the season forecasts for southern or northern southeast Alaska indicate a pink salmon return significantly larger, or smaller, than the preseason forecasts.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT GOALS

The primary management goals for the 1995 Southeast Alaska purse seine fishery are as follows:

1. Obtain overall pink and chum salmon spawning escapement goals with the best possible distribution to all systems.
2. Provide for an orderly fishery while harvesting those fish in excess of spawning escapement needs.
3. Minimize, to the extent possible, the interceptions of salmon destined for those fishing districts where weak returns are expected.
4. Promote a harvest of good quality fish within constraints dictated by run size and timing.

5. Manage the District 4 purse seine fishery consistent with the provisions of the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty (negotiations for the 1995 season are still not complete at this time).
6. Restrict the total purse seine harvest of chinook salmon (28 inches or larger) to no more than 11,400 fish, exclusive of new Alaskan hatchery-produced fish.
7. Manage the seine fishery in the waters of District 12, north of Point Marsden (along the Hawk Inlet Shore), and in Section 14-C north of the latitude of Porpoise Islands, consistent with the Northern Southeast Purse Seine Management Plan (5 AAC 33.366).

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

The department will strive to maintain the high quality of the harvest that was achieved in recent years. This will mean an aggressive fishing schedule early in the season in areas where strong returns are expected. As long as run strength warrants, the department also intends to continue managing the seine fishery on a 2-day-on/2-day-off fishing schedule during the peak of the season. This fishing schedule has worked well for the processing industry, fishermen, and the department in previous years and alleviates some problems associated with obtaining high quality when large numbers of fish are harvested. Still, there may be times during the season when high pink salmon abundance in some areas warrants extensions of fishing time beyond this schedule.

The department will employ the same basic fishing time schedule as in 1994. For the 1995 season, the fishery opening and closing times will be as follows: 1) from the start of the seine season (June 25) through approximately August 10 - 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; 2) from approximately August 10 through the end of pink salmon directed seining - 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and 3) from the start of chum salmon directed seining until the season closes - 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST

Existing regulations require the department to manage the Southeast Alaska purse seine fishery for a harvest of 11,400 chinook salmon (not including Alaska hatchery-produced fish). The Board of Fisheries adopted this regulation as part of an overall allocation scheme among commercial users impacted by chinook salmon harvest quotas imposed by the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). In addition, the Board adopted size limits, and directed the department to manage the purse seine fishery such that incidental mortality from catch and release is minimized. Specific provisions for management of the seine fishery harvest of chinook salmon are as follows:

1. The seasonal purse seine catch limit will be 11,400 chinook salmon (excluding Alaska hatchery chinook).
2. Only chinook salmon 28 inches in length or larger (as measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail) will count against the purse seine catch limit.
3. Non-retention of 28-inch and larger chinook salmon will be the primary management measure for maintaining the catch limit. Chinook salmon non-retention will be required early in the season when total salmon catch rates are low. This will allow more efficient release of chinook salmon and minimize the impact of incidental mortality. Retention of chinook salmon will be permitted for as long as possible during the time period when the catch rate for other species is high. Once the quota is reached, non-retention regulations will once again be required.
4. Purse seine fishermen may not sell chinook salmon between 21 and 28 inches in length. Fishermen are encouraged to avoid areas that contain concentrations of chinook salmon within this size range and to quickly release those which are caught to minimize mortality.
5. Purse seine fishermen may possess and sell chinook salmon that are less than 21 inches (approximately 5 lbs. or less). These small chinook salmon do not count against the catch limit.

Implementation Plan

Purse seiners can anticipate periods of non-retention of chinook salmon (28 inches or longer) during openings in June and most of July. Following the early season, non-retention period, seiners will be allowed to retain chinook salmon 28 inches or larger until the catch quota is reached. This retention period is expected to be of short duration and will be announced via department news release.

During periods of non-retention, fishermen are encouraged to avoid fishing in areas with high concentrations of chinook salmon and to quickly release those caught in a manner that minimizes mortality. To ensure that small (less than 21 inches) chinook are not counted against the quota, the department needs the cooperation of the fishing industry. To accomplish this, the department will require that all chinook salmon sold that are 28 inches or longer be specified on fish tickets as species code 410; this is pre-printed on each fish ticket. Chinook salmon 21 inches or less, should be indicated on fish tickets as species code 411. This code will need to be handwritten on the fish ticket at the time of sale because it is not pre-printed.

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS PURSE SEINE FISHERY

1995 Pink Salmon Returns

Parent-year (1993) pink salmon escapements exceeded goals in Districts 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. While the distribution of escapements was very good in most districts, drought conditions and the associated pre-spawning mortalities are expected to negatively impact overall returns to southern Southeast Alaska. The highest incidence of pre-spawning mortalities occurred in portions of District 3 (in particular, Section 3-C). The effects of the drought were not as severe in the larger mainland systems of District 1. As a result, the department anticipates weaker returns to Prince of Wales Island systems and stronger returns to early-run systems in District 1. Distribution of escapement was poor in District 6 with most of the optimum escapements occurring in the Sumner Strait portion of the district. Escapements in District 7 were below the goal but the early run escapements were strong enough to support limited seining.

Management Problems

Returns of pink salmon to some areas of southern Southeast Alaska in 1995 may be poor if the effects of the 1993 drought are as severe as predicted. As noted above, the area of greatest concern is the District 3 portion of Prince of Wales Island. If the returns to District 3 are poor, it may become necessary to implement closures in both District 4 and District 3 in order to reach escapement goals. Escapements of later-run stocks in portions of Districts 6 and 7 were not strong and fishing will only occur there after it appears that the escapement goals will be reached.

Except for the 1992 season, escapements of sockeye salmon to Hugh Smith Lake in Boca de Quadra (District 1) have been below the escapement goal in recent years. For 1995, the estimated total return will be 14,000 to 18,000 sockeye. The department's interim escapement goal is a range of 18,000 to 35,000 fish. Harvest rates on Hugh Smith sockeye can range from 20% to 90%. If a poor return does materialize and if escapements in early July are deemed inadequate, area restrictions may be implemented in mid-July in District 1 in the vicinity of Boca de Quadra south to Foggy Point. The duration and the extent of the closed area will be based upon observed escapement of Hugh Smith sockeye salmon and the need to harvest surplus pink salmon stocks bound for Boca de Quadra. Long term plans to rebuild the Hugh Smith sockeye salmon stock include inseason management actions, lake bio-enhancement, and coded wire tagging studies to determine migration patterns and timing.

Management Plan

The southern Southeast Alaska area purse seine management plan consists of separate segments for the District 4 fishery, the inside districts pink salmon fishery, the McDonald Lake sockeye fishery, the fall chum salmon fishery in Cholmondeley Sound, and special hatchery terminal fisheries.

District 4

The District 4 purse seine fishery has been managed according to terms of the District 4 Annex of the Pacific Salmon Treaty for the northern boundary area (Southeast Alaska and northern British Columbia). However, the District 4 Annex expired at the end of the 1993 season and a new Annex has not yet been negotiated. As a result, the specific management plan for the District 4 seine fishery for the 1995 season cannot be finalized at this time. The department will publish an addendum to this management plan after negotiations have been completed.

Inside Fishing Areas

Aerial surveys of early run pink salmon producing areas, primarily Boca de Quadra, east Behm Canal, and Ernest Sound will begin in late June. Seining is expected to begin on Sunday, July 2. The initial fishing period will be for 15 hours and will be confined to the southeast portion of Section 1-F and portions of Section 7-A (Anan). The southernmost section of District 2, south of Scott Point, is expected to open during the second week of the season.

A conservative management approach will be followed for Clarence Strait in 1995. As in recent years, seining will be limited to the southern portion of District 2 until escapements of pink salmon to northern Clarence Strait, Ernest Sound, west Behm Canal, Cholmondeley Sound, and Kasaan Bay can be adequately assessed. Additionally, no seining should be expected in middle Clarence Strait, along the Ship Island and Tolstoi Island shorelines, until run strength of pink salmon returns to District 6 and Section 7-B is determined.

Returns of pink salmon to District 3 are expected to be well below average due to the effects of the drought conditions in the parent year of 1993. If the pink salmon run materializes as anticipated, purse seine fishing may not begin until early August. Both time and area restrictions may be needed in District 4 and District 3 in order to reach escapement goals.

Pink salmon returns to District 5 were at record levels during the 1993 parent year. Although drought conditions may also impact returns to District 5 streams, the first openings are still anticipated to occur on approximately August 6.

McDonald Lake Sockeye

The forecasted return of sockeye salmon to McDonald Lake in Section 1-D is 75,000 to 95,000 with an escapement goal of 85,000 fish. The department will monitor the returns beginning in early July by aerial surveys and test fishing with purse seine vessels. If a harvestable surplus is evident, a limited seine fishery in the immediate vicinity of Yes Bay will be allowed during mid-July to early August. If a fishery is authorized, the opening will be in conjunction with other seine openings and it will be of short duration to minimize impacts on other stocks.

Fall Chum Fisheries

Some watersheds along the eastern shoreline of Prince of Wales Island, in District 2, produce late-run chum salmon that have traditionally supported fall purse seine fisheries. Although no formal forecasts are available for these returns, some expectations can be based on parent-year escapements. In the 1991 parent year, escapements were above average in Disappearance Creek and Lagoon Creek, the primary chum salmon spawning systems in Cholmondeley Sound. Escapements were average for the Karta River in Kasaan Bay, and in Moira Sound streams. The first fall-run chum salmon openings can be expected about September 10.

Terminal Hatchery Fisheries

For the 1995 season, special harvest area seine fisheries may occur at Nakat Inlet, Eastern Passage, and Kendrick Bay to harvest fish returning to Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) enhancement facilities. No common property seine fisheries are expected for the Neets Bay or Carroll Inlet terminal areas in 1995.

The fisheries in Nakat Inlet and Eastern Passage (Earl West Cove) will be managed jointly with SSRAA, and in accordance with existing Board of Fisheries approved management plans. The open areas will be as follows:

Nakat Inlet: The waters of Nakat Inlet between 54°50' N. latitude and 54°56' N. latitude.

Eastern Passage: The waters of Eastern Passage south of 56°24'50" N latitude and west of 132° 06'36" W. longitude.

The 1995 season will be the third year of summer chum salmon returns to Kendrick Bay located on the southeastern shore of Prince of Wales Island in District 2. The 1995 return is expected to be approximately 330,000 chum salmon. The Kendrick Bay terminal harvest area (THA) has been designated for purse seine and troll gear only and is managed in consultation with SSRAA. The department will open the Kendrick Bay THA on June 25 in conjunction with the first Hidden Falls Hatchery opening. The THA will then be open continuously until the end of the pink salmon seine season. Adjustments to this plan

may be made during the season if the harvest of non-targeted species is excessive. The Kendrick Bay THA is defined as follows:

Kendrick Bay: The waters of Kendrick Bay west of the 132°00'00" W. longitude.

As of the date this management plan was published, SSRAA had not determined the rotational fishing schedule for Nakat Inlet and Eastern Passage. Once the fishing schedule for these areas is finalized, the department will issue a news release listing the open fishing dates. Fishermen should check with the department or SSRAA, prior to fishing, to obtain updated fishery information. Fishermen are also requested to ensure that fish caught in terminal areas are reported correctly on the fish tickets. This will enable the accurate documentation of fish taken from the special harvest areas, and allow area-specific catch sampling to determine contribution rates based on recovery of coded microwire tags.

NORTHERN DISTRICTS PURSE SEINE FISHERY

1995 Pink Salmon Returns

Overall pink salmon spawning escapement goals were exceeded in the parent year (1993) in Districts 9 and 12 and good returns are expected to most streams in these areas. Spawning escapements were met in District 14 and harvestable surpluses are possible. Escapements to District 10 and 11 were far below district escapement goals, and harvestable surpluses returning to portions of these districts may be very limited.

Management Problems

With no specific northern Southeast Alaska pink salmon return prediction, it will be necessary to assess the overall run strength of the return early in the season. Another early-season management concern will be to prevent excessive interception of weak salmon stocks in mixed stock fishing corridors (e.g., Icy Strait and upper Chatham Strait) until run strengths to near-terminal and terminal areas can be adequately assessed.

Management Plan

The northern Southeast Alaska purse seine fishery management plan consists of separate segments for the outside areas (Sections 13-A and 13-B), the inside areas, the fall chum salmon fishery, and the Hidden Falls and Deep Inlet Hatchery terminal fisheries.

Inside Fishing Areas

The 1995 seining season will begin on Sunday, June 25, with an initial open period of 15 hours. During the first open periods on Sunday, June 25 and Sunday, July 2, seining will be allowed in District 10 (exclusive of the Admiralty Island shoreline), portions of District 12 in Tenakee Inlet, lower Admiralty Island, Point Augusta in Chatham Straits, Hidden Falls, and Section 13-C in Peril Strait. Openings along the Admiralty Island shoreline adjacent to Seymour Canal will be postponed until at least July 13 to protect expected poor early-run pink salmon returns to Gambier Bay and Seymour Canal. Areas open in Tenakee Inlet will depend on assessments of local chum salmon run strength immediately prior to the fishery. Early openings in Port Frederick are not anticipated due to extremely poor escapements of chum salmon in the parent year.

Parent-year escapements to Tenakee Inlet were very good and an aggressive fishing strategy is anticipated for this area in 1995. The upper portion of the inlet will be opened as soon as chum salmon run strength allows, and fishing will continue as long as escapements build adequately. A portion of the Basket Bay shoreline may also be opened if Tenakee and Peril Straits pink salmon returns are sufficiently strong.

Early-season openings along the lower western shoreline of Admiralty Island will be allowed to assess abundance of summer-run chum salmon returns. Chum salmon escapement to Hood and Chaik Bays will be monitored closely and the area will be closed if local systems do not build adequately.

Subsequent seining for early-run pink salmon returns will be based upon aerial survey and fishery performance assessments of run strength. Aerial surveys to evaluate run strength are expected to begin in late June for the northern inside fishing districts. Catch rates in the Cross Sound troll fishery and incidental catches of pink salmon at the Hidden Falls Hatchery's terminal fishery during the first three weeks of the season will also be monitored as an indicator of pink salmon run strength. The department will again open the one mile section of shoreline by Point Augusta in District 12 in conjunction with other weekly openings to provide an additional assessment of incoming run strength of early-run pink salmon. Test fishing will be conducted at Point Gardner and Kingsmill Point in July to assess the strength of the pink salmon returns entering Frederick Sound.

Seining in the Chatham Straits portion of District 12 is not expected until late July due to the expected weakness of early-run pink salmon returns to District 11 and middle run pink salmon returns to District 10 and Seymour Canal. The Whitestone Shore area in District 14 may open in late July or early August dependent upon observed strengths of local and late-run pink salmon stocks. The Homeshore area in District 14 may be opened for short periods in mid-August to harvest pink salmon surplus to spawning needs in streams adjacent to Excursion Inlet. The short openings will be designed to minimize the harvest of non-local stocks. Fisheries in Port Althorp or Idaho Inlet, in District 14, are not anticipated due to the poor parent-year escapements.

Beginning June 25, major portions of Section 13-C will be open to assess the pink salmon run strength to Hoonah Sound streams. In approximately mid-July, the open fishing area will be moved towards Chatham Strait to improve the quality of the harvest, and to ensure that escapement goals for Hoonah

Sound streams are obtained. Portions of Section 13-C, west of the Duffield Peninsula, and Section 13-A in lower Peril Strait north of Rapids Point, may remain open to access fish migrating through Salisbury Sound and lower Peril Strait to Hoonah Sound streams.

By late July, middle and late-run pink salmon returns should begin entering the inside waters of the northern districts. Seining is expected to begin in District 9 during mid-July near Red Bluff Bay in Section 9-A, in late-July along the Admiralty Island shore in Section 9-B, and in early to mid-August in Section 9-A near Little Port Walter.

Hawk Inlet Shore Fishery

The Admiralty Island shoreline between Funter Bay and Point Marsden in Chatham Strait is known as the Hawk Inlet Shore. Fishing is allowed in this area to harvest pink salmon stocks migrating northward to Taku River, Lynn Canal and upper Stephens Passage. During July, the department will manage the Hawk Inlet Shore fishery in accordance with "5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast Seine Fishery Management Plan." This plan stipulates that any portion of the area north of Point Marsden may be opened when a harvestable surplus of pink salmon is observed. Openings must also consider the conservation of all species, and the area must be closed in July after 15,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested.

During August, openings along the Hawk Inlet shore may extend northward to the latitude of Hanus Reef Light if north-migrating pink salmon stocks remain strong. If north-migrating salmon returns are poor and south-migrating stocks are strong, seining will be allowed only south of Point Marsden.

Pink salmon run strength to northern inside areas was extremely poor in 1993. Harvestable surpluses are not expected during July north of Point Marsden. Openings along the Hawk Inlet shore north of Point Marsden will be based on the observed run strength of north-migrating stocks of pink salmon. The assessment methods used by the department to determine if run strengths are adequate and a harvestable surplus of pink salmon is available for harvest will include:

1. Parent-year escapements of pink salmon stocks in the Taku River, Stephens Passage, and Lynn Canal.
2. Inseason forecasts of pink salmon run size from the "Icy Straits troll index" program.
3. Test fishing at designated locations along the Admiralty Island shoreline north of Point Marsden.
4. Aerial assessments of pink salmon abundance along the Admiralty Island Shoreline (north of Point Marsden).
5. Fishery performance of District 11 and District 15 drift gillnet fisheries.

6. Pink salmon marine sport fish catch rates in the Juneau area (lower Lynn Canal and upper Stephens Passage).

At the Board of Fisheries meeting in Ketchikan in January 1994, the department met with representatives of the Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) and the United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) to discuss procedures used by the department to account for sockeye salmon catches along the Hawk Inlet Shoreline north of Point Marsden during July fishing periods. The SEAS and USAG representatives agreed to the following change in the sockeye catch accounting procedure for this fishery:

"All sockeye salmon harvested by any seine boat the department identifies as fishing north of Point Marsden during any July fishing period when other nearby areas (i.e., Point Marsden to Point Hepburn, Whitestone Shore, or the Point Augusta Test Fishery) are open concurrently, will be counted against the 15,000 sockeye salmon quota for the Hawk Inlet fishery north of Point Marsden. During the openings, the department will utilize fishery overflights, on-the-grounds sampling, and interviews to estimate the sockeye harvest north of Point Marsden".

The purpose of this change is to provide the department with more flexibility to open areas adjacent to the Hawk Inlet shore fishery (e.g., south of Point Marsden, Point Augusta, and Whitestone shore) when pink salmon run strength warrants.

Hidden Falls Terminal Hatchery Fishery

The Hidden Falls Hatchery, operated by the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), expects a return of approximately 2,700,000 chum salmon in 1995. Of this total return, approximately 2,400,000 will be available for the common property harvest. Initial openings in the terminal harvest area will occur on June 25 and July 2. Further openings will depend on inseason evaluations of run strength, cost recovery, and broodstock needs of the hatchery. Fishermen are advised that openings after July 2 may be announced on a 24-hour notice.

The Hidden Falls terminal harvest area will include the waters of Chatham Strait, Kasnyku Bay, and Takatz Bay, within two nautical miles of the Baranof Island shoreline south of a range marker at South Point, and north of a range marker located at 57°06'50" N. latitude (the southern entrance to Takatz Bay). The boundaries may be extended north to include Kelp Bay and the Catherine Island shoreline if chum salmon escapements to Kelp Bay streams are good.

Deep Inlet Terminal Hatchery Fishery

NSRAA expects a return of 435,000 chum salmon to its Deep Inlet remote release site and the Medvejie Hatchery in 1995. Cost recovery goals for the Deep Inlet returns are unknown at this time, consequently the harvestable surplus amount is uncertain. The NSRAA board, in consultation with the department, will

meet in early spring to determine how the 1995 cost recovery fishery will be managed, and to propose fishing schedules for the common property fishery. Once cost recovery goals can be assured, commercial openings will begin. The fishery will be managed jointly with NSRAA, and in accordance with the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Management Plan (5 AAC 33.376). The plan provides for the distribution of the harvest of hatchery-produced chum salmon between the purse seine and drift gill net fleets. The ratio of gill net fishing time to purse seine fishing time will be 2:1. Additionally, the Board of Fisheries has allowed trolling to occur when net fisheries are closed and when trolling does not interfere with cost recovery. The terminal harvest area will be as follows:

Deep Inlet THA: The waters of Deep Inlet, Aleutkina Bay and contiguous waters south of a line from a point at the east side of the entrance to Pirates Cove at 135°22'10" W. longitude, 56°59'18" N. latitude, to a point on the west side of Long Island at 135°21'50" W. longitude, 56°59'50" N. latitude, to the easternmost tip of Long Island to the southeasternmost tip of Emgeten Island to the southernmost tip of Error Island to the southernmost tip of Boidarkin Island to a point at 135°17'52" W. longitude, 57°00'38" N. latitude.

When chum salmon begin returning to the Deep Inlet THA in approximately mid-July, the area will be open to purse seine, drift gillnet, and troll gear.

Fishermen are also requested to ensure that fish caught in terminal areas are reported correctly on their fish tickets. This will enable the accurate documentation of fish taken from the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area.

Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries

Portions of northern Southeast Alaska support returns of fall-run chum salmon which are harvested by purse seine gear. No formal forecasts are available for these runs. Escapements of fall-run chum salmon during the parent years (1990 and 1991) were above average in Security Bay and Port Camden and fishing opportunities are expected in these areas. Parent-year escapements to Chaik Bay and Excursion Inlet were very poor and no openings are expected in these areas in 1995. The fisheries will be managed on the basis of observations of run strengths in the bays beginning in mid-August and continuing through September.

Outside Fishing Areas (Sections 13-A and 13-B)

Management of Sections 13-A and 13-B, along the outer coasts of Baranof and Chichagof Islands, is distinct from the management of the northern inside areas. Salmon returning to these areas enter directly from the ocean and do not pass through major inside migration corridors. Good pink salmon returns are expected to Deep Bay; however, moderate to weak returns are expected to most other outside areas. Seining for pink salmon returning to Deep Bay and Hoonah Sound could begin as early as the middle of July. Openings in Salisbury Sound will most likely be limited to the northern shoreline in order to protect

local Salisbury Sound stocks. Limited openings may occur in Lisianski Inlet or in Slocum Arm, depending on inseason evaluation of run strengths in these areas.

Summer chum salmon returns will be monitored to determine run strengths beginning in early July. If harvestable surpluses can be identified, fishermen may expect portions of Sections 13-A and 13-B to be open by early to mid-July. Openings may be expected in Slocum Arm, West Crawfish Inlet, Portlock Harbor, and Whale Bay.

Short purse seine openings to harvest sockeye salmon along the outer coast of lower Baranof Island are expected to occur from mid-July to early August. These fisheries will target on fish returning to Necker and Redfish Bays.

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The following is a list of telephone numbers that may be called during the fishing season to obtain recorded announcements concerning areas open to purse seine fishing:

Ketchikan	-	(907) 225-6870
Petersburg	-	(907) 772-3700
Sitka	-	(907) 747-5022
Juneau	-	(907) 465-8905

ADA Publications Statement

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